

October 9, 2015

Victoria Wachino, Director
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue Southwest
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Wachino,

I am writing to express Plymouth Housing Group's strong support of the Supportive Housing Medicaid benefit proposed in Washington State's 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver application to your agency.

Plymouth Housing Group operates approximately 850 units of permanent supportive housing in Seattle for single adults with a range of complex health needs. We strongly believe that housing is healthcare, and are very interested in exploring new ways that we can collaborate with our healthcare partners to better serve people who are homeless, with serious health concerns, and high costs to public systems and services.

At Plymouth, we have seen real evidence of the positive impact supportive housing has for individual lives and health outcomes. The improvement in health is often matched with significant public cost savings. We believe supportive housing is cost effective and compassionate public policy (Plymouth demonstrated \$1.8 million in savings for a group of 29 residents in a study published by the [American Journal of Public Health in 2013](#)).

Too often, we see homeless people at our local Harborview Medical Center for medical concerns that could be cared for at home. Just one night of inpatient hospitalization at Harborview costs \$1,600, whereas one night of supportive housing at Plymouth costs under \$40. We can change this – we just need more homes.

Plymouth provides the safety and security for people to recover from the numerous health challenges they face – but we need more resources to continue maintaining and building more supportive housing in our community. That is our hope with this Waiver. We believe it can help us reduce system costs and end chronic homelessness.

Thank you for your support of our State's effort to deliver better health and services to people in need. We are thrilled to see this commitment to housing from Washington State and the federal government, and we look forward to the implementation of this benefit for the people we serve – who simply desire to live healthy lives at home.

Sincerely,



Paul Lambros, Executive Director
Plymouth Housing Group

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